

Service. Over her career, Shellie has served in the majority and minority, the House, Senate personal offices, three Committee staffs, as well as for a member of Senate leadership. I first met Shellie when she worked for a fellow member of the House Banking Committee.

Although she has worked on issues ranging from the creation of the 50 States Quarters program to the passage of tax incentives for donations to food banks, Shellie is best known for her work on global health issues. She was a lead staffer establishing the framework for the PEPFAR program. This legislation helped move HIV from a death sentence to a manageable disease. Shellie authored a report addressing management issues at the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Her recommendations were adopted by the Global Fund Board and the institution is currently in good financial shape.

In working on the oversight and investigations team on my staff, Shellie has not only covered global health, but all foreign assistance programs. She has stressed the need for stronger management and evaluation criterion. By asking thorough questions, the State Department and USAID realize that the Committee is paying attention to how government funds are spent, as we demand accountability.

Shellie has been a great mentor to junior Committee staff. I know she is not finished making a difference in the world. I wish Shellie much success as she moves to the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BARBARA
SHANNON-BANISTER

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of my dear friend, Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister. She will retire from her position as the Chief of the Community Relations Division for the City of Aurora on December 31, 2018.

Dr. Shannon-Banister is a truly dedicated civil servant whose work over the length of her career has significantly benefitted my hometown of Aurora, Colorado, and the greater Denver Metropolitan area. In 1989, Dr. Shannon-Banister co-founded the Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN), which is the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides primary care and other health-related services for the medically underserved not only in the City of Aurora but also for areas outside of Aurora.

As a fierce advocate for civil rights, Dr. Shannon-Banister also worked to bring the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to Aurora, where she was instrumental in starting a new NAACP chapter in 1991. Her efforts gave the residents of Aurora, Colorado's third largest and most diverse city, an organization that fully understood the need to protect and advance the cause of civil rights.

A true icon of our community, she is also President and chief executive officer of the non-profit foundation, Grand Design Inc., that works to preserve African American culture through community outreach, hosting concerts, and visual arts performances.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Barbara Shannon-Banister represents the very best in public service that the State of Colorado and our nation has to offer. I thank her and commend her for her decades of tireless and inspirational leadership on behalf of all of us in our community, our state, and our nation. I wish her all the best of luck and a wonderful and fulfilling retirement.

HONORING JACKSON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS JROTC PROGRAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in Jackson Public Schools which has been developed over seven decades.

The first JROTC program in Jackson Public Schools was started in Central High School in 1936 and transferred to Lanier High School in 1971 after the program at Central High School was phased out. Today the Army JROTC Program is alive and well in all of Jackson Public Schools. Since the JROTC program began, thousands of students have been exposed to the ideals of leadership, character development, and citizenship training provided by JROTC.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jackson Public Schools JROTC program.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE H.W. BUSH,
HEROIC NAVAL AVIATOR, DIPLOMAT,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS,
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE,
VICE-PRESIDENT, LOVING HUSBAND
AND FATHER, BRIGHTEST OF A
THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT, AND 41ST
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero, George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, who last Friday, November 30, 2018, slipped the surly bonds of earth, reached out his hand, and touched the face of God.

His was a life of love: for God, for Country, and for family. George H.W. Bush, whom we lost at the age of 94, was a giant among men. He served our nation for most of the last seven decades, in so many of the institutions and sectors that make our country great.

We were all very lucky to have him as long as we did. As the second youngest naval aviator, he was shot down during one of countless flights in the Pacific theater of World War II, leaving him stranded in the ocean for many hours—his life in danger and with rescue uncertain. Fortunately for him and the hundreds of millions of people across the globe who were touched by his leadership and mourn

him today, he would be found alive and brought home. That night in September 1944 would prove fateful to this man, and the country he would serve and that we all love. When he returned home, he married the woman who would be by his side for 73 years and serve as our nation's First Lady, Barbara Pierce Bush. There was a bond so strong that it is perhaps no coincidence that they left us within mere months of one another. Together, they created a prolific and legendary American political dynasty dedicated to public service, including: a son who would serve as governor of Texas and later become the 43rd President, George W. Bush; and Jeb Bush, who would serve two terms as governor of Florida.

President George H.W. Bush's life was one marked by service to country: in the military, as a member of the United States House of Representatives from Texas, as part of our nation's diplomatic corps, as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and as Vice President of the United States, before he would be elected the 41st President of the United States. His tenure as our nation's Chief Executive is one for which we should all be grateful, as he presided over a remarkable period of geopolitical transition and progress, including the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the successful administration of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and a commitment to denuclearization as a means to achieve diplomatic ends.

And, he did not let electoral defeat diminish him or his commitment to public service. When they were both former presidents, George H.W. Bush and his successor—the man who would deny him reelection—Bill Clinton, joined together to help victims following the devastating tsunami in Indonesia in 2004, and to help hurricane victims in New Orleans following Katrina. Throughout his long time in public life, he demonstrated unwavering fidelity to country, and it manifested itself in several ways, but is best articulated by President Bush himself, during his 1989 inaugural address: 'I've spoken of a thousand points of light, of all the community organizations, that are spread like stars throughout the nation doing good. I will go to the people and the programs that are the brighter points of light and I will ask every member of my government to become involved. The old ideas are new again because they are not old, they are timeless: duty, sacrifice, commitment, and a patriotism that finds its expression in taking part and pitching in.'

I know that today, people across the land and indeed the world are remembering this giant of American life. Of course, those of us in Houston also mourn and celebrate a neighbor, whom we loved, whose life we remember, and whose presence in our community is something we will forever cherish. Though he has departed, we are grateful for the time we shared with him and for his service to our nation. I mourn the passing of this statesman, but also celebrate his life. In this time, I extend my deepest sympathies to the entire Bush Family and hold them close in my heart. May God bless President George H.W. Bush, the entire Bush Family, and may he rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the 41st President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush.